

Application Number 10/639,055
Amendment dated September 23, 2005
Response to Office action of July 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for reducing nanoscale roughness on a pair of surfaces, comprising the step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation of component molecules or atoms from one or more angular features of said surfaces, wherein said step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation comprises applying a voltage bias between said surfaces, whereby said nanoscale roughness is reduced.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein said step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation additionally comprises heating said surfaces.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein said step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation additionally comprises reducing a vapor pressure exerted by said molecules or atoms in said environment.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises evacuating said environment.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises purging said environment with an inert gas.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises the combination of an evacuating step and a purging step.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein said step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation additionally comprises the combination of heating said surfaces and reducing a vapor pressure exerted by said molecules or atoms in said environment

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Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises evacuating said environment.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises purging said environment with an inert gas.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said step of reducing a vapor pressure comprises the combination of an evacuating step and a purging step.

Claim 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein said step of exposing the surfaces to an environment for promoting evaporation additionally comprises applying a temperature differential between said surfaces.